

BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL, VOLUME II

Taken at:  
Borough Assembly Chambers  
Naknek, Alaska  
November 6, 2001

ATTENDANCE

Council Members Present:

Daniel J. O'Hara, Chair  
Robert Heyano  
Andrew Balluta  
Peter Abraham  
Harold (Robin) Samuelson  
Shirley Kelly

Coordinator:

Cliff Edenshaw

Others Present:

Pat McClenahan, Office of Subsistence  
Management; Larry Buklis, Office of  
Subsistence Management; Richard Uberuaga,  
Office of Subsistence Management; Steve Fried,  
Office of Subsistence Management; Dave Fisher,  
Office of Subsistence Management; Dan Dunaway,  
ADF&G; Carl Jack, BIA Native Liaison; Ross  
Waite, Alaska Peninsula-Becharof Refuge; Ron  
Squibb, Alaska Peninsula Refuge; Jim Larson,  
King Salmon Fisheries Resource Office; Kevin  
Simms, King Salmon Fisheries Resource Office;  
Mark Edwards, King Salmon Fisheries Resource  
Office; Slim Moristad, ADF&G; Mark Kepsel,  
Alaska Peninsula-King Salmon; Andy Aderman,  
Togiak Refuge; Mark Leesik, Togiak Refuge; Pat  
Walsh, Togiak Refuge; Orville Lind, Alaska  
Peninsula Refuge; Mary McBurney, National Park  
Service; Karen Stickman, National Park  
Service; Bruce Greenwood, National Park  
Service; Tom O'Hara, National Park Service.

1 MR. O'HARA: Good morning. We  
2 call the meeting back into session. I have  
3 about six after or so. We left one part of  
4 the report open yesterday. Carl Jack needs to  
5 come and talk to us about No. 15, Agency  
6 Reports to Fish and Wildlife Service, Office  
7 of Subsistence Management. And, Carl, we  
8 didn't mean to leave you off yesterday. That  
9 was an oversight on our part and we apologize  
10 for that. If you would like to, go ahead.

11 MR. JACK: Good morning. I'm  
12 going to cover two programs. The first one is  
13 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring and also the  
14 halibut jurisdiction. These are going to be  
15 just update reports, progress reports, no  
16 action required.

17 On partnerships you will find a  
18 briefing paper on Page 2 of Tab K. Last  
19 February I made a briefing on this, and this  
20 report is going to be just to let you know  
21 where we are. I will start off by saying,  
22 though, that the deadline for the applications  
23 for the partnerships was extended to November  
24 10th. Initially it was October the 10th. And  
25 the extension was done at the request of some  
regional organizations to give them more time  
to collaborate with other organizations along  
the Yukon, for example, to put their  
applications together.

16 Where we are on this is, the  
17 chairman of the Federal board has written a  
18 letter to the other Federal agencies  
19 requesting them to select a person to sit on a  
20 panel that will be reviewing the applications.  
21 And there will be two persons from the Office  
22 of Subsistence Management that will be sitting  
23 on the panel. As you know, the call for  
24 proposals was sent out about a couple months  
25 ago, and the nature of the program is  
competitive as compared to the other 809  
agreements. And upon the advice of counsel  
from the contracting office, due to the nature  
of the competitive -- due to the competitive  
nature of the programs, we were somewhat  
restricted in providing technical assistance  
to the persons that prepared the applications.  
The staff committee is going to meet tomorrow.

26 The board will have their work  
27 session on the 16th, and I believe that the

1 panel will be constituted shortly after that.  
Then they will get down to the business of  
2 reviewing the applications. We do have -- we  
have received an application from BBNA. As  
3 you recall, this Council requested separation  
of the program from the Aleutian Chain. And  
4 although in the advertisement or call for  
proposals, this region was included with the  
5 Aleutians, we did say that we will honor  
subregional requests, such as the proposal  
6 from BBNA. While the deadline has been  
extended to November 15th, looking at the  
7 milestone points from that point on through  
May 15th, we are still maintaining the May  
8 15th deadline whereby the successful  
applicants will be able to fill the positions  
9 and get the programs going. And prior to that  
809 agreements will be negotiated with the  
10 successful applicants.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my  
11 update report on partners.

12 MR. O'HARA: Okay. Any questions,  
Council members? Go ahead, Shirley.

13 MS. KELLY: What's the project  
14 that BBNA submitted?

15 MR. JACK: The project is to, one,  
hire a biologist with an intern component to  
16 essentially track what's in your briefing  
paper on Page 3. Let's see. Basically the --  
17 it will allow the BBNA to hire a biologist to  
start looking at the -- to help them review  
18 the fisheries programs and also to help them,  
for example, to develop programs on the  
19 grounds where they will be able to do research  
activities. And also one of the components is  
20 to be able to send a person to the technical  
review committee.

21 And the major component, again, is  
to have an internship where the intern will be  
22 able to work closely with the biologist to  
develop the capacity and fisheries research.

23 I will say, though, that it looks like the  
application has a lot of support from the 32  
24 villages. It's indicated there that they were  
able to get resolutions from each and every  
25 one of the 32 villages in support of the  
program. So it looks like a good application.

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MR. O'HARA: Might be a goal, huh?  
Shirley, did you have anything else? Robin?  
Robert?

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MR. HEYANO: No, I don't have  
anything else.

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MR. O'HARA: Any other comments,  
Council members? Is there another report that  
Pat is supposed to be giving us on this?

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MR. JACK: This is on halibut,  
again on Tab K, Page 1. The briefing paper is  
self-explanatory. I will say, though, as a  
person that was involved and helped the  
working group provide staff support to the  
working group that forged the effort to  
recognize halibut as a subsistence resource,  
this is kind of like catching a forward pass  
on my part. You know, what happened in Sitka,  
I believe, was a significant accomplishment.  
When the North Pacific Fisheries Management  
Council took action to recognize halibut as a  
subsistence resource, because prior to that  
only commercial and sport was recognized.

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And as you will note, the action  
adopted by the North Pacific Fisheries  
Management Council is under the ANILCA  
framework, but with an explicit tribal fishery  
component. Now, the Federal board has  
received three proposals that relate to  
halibut, but those three proposals have been  
withdrawn, mainly because there's a question  
on whether the board has jurisdiction on this.  
So based on the advice of counsel from the  
solicitor's office, the office has withdrawn  
those, mainly because the management of  
halibut is governed by the International  
Halibut Treaty and the Northern Pacific  
Halibut Act. So right now there are some  
legal uncertainties whether the Federal board  
can regulate the take of halibut for  
subsistence. Those regulations are now being  
worked on and being developed by the North  
Pacific Fisheries Management Council. And I  
guess their milestone -- or they're looking  
towards having the final rule developed and  
implemented this coming spring.

So Mr. Chairman, in short, that's

1 our update report on halibut. I might say  
2 that Mr. Samuelson played a key role during  
3 the October, 2000 deliberations of the North  
4 Pacific Fisheries Management Council, and it  
5 was only after -- it was only after -- when  
6 they start talking about halibut, one of the  
7 options -- there were some varied options in  
8 there. One was just a Native eligibility  
9 criteria. There was Native plus. And I  
10 recall when Mr. Babson, general counsel for  
11 NOLA made a report to the counsel that if the  
12 North Pacific doesn't do anything, there was  
13 likelihood of some kind of legal action by the  
14 Native community. And it was only after that  
15 that Mr. Penney, who is a sports advocate for  
16 the Kenai Peninsula, made that motion with  
17 those explicit provisions. And this is just  
18 from my recollections.

19 MR. O'HARA: I bet that hurt. Do  
20 you have any comment, Robin?

21 MR. SAMUELSON: No.

22 MR. O'HARA: We do appreciate that  
23 part of the work because we will eventually  
24 get halibut as a subsistence fish, and that is  
25 very, very critical to the entire coastline of  
26 Alaska. Any questions, Council members, on  
27 the halibut issue? Thank you very much, Carl.  
28 We have one more here now to deal with and  
29 that would be the Federal coordinator. Pat,  
30 will you address that? How are you this  
31 morning?

32 MS. McCLENAHAN: Fine, thank you,  
33 Mr. Chairman. I'm Pat McClenahan. This will  
34 be very brief.

35 You will recall during our last  
36 meeting in the spring the issue of the State  
37 ADF&G funding for their participation in the  
38 Federal subsistence program arose rather  
39 abruptly during our meeting. This past May  
40 the funding issues were taken care of for  
41 2000, and an agreement was reached to resolve  
42 a longer-term funding support for ADF&G  
43 liaison and for coordination staffing for 2002  
44 and beyond 2002. This has resulted in full  
45 coordination between ADF&G and the Federal  
46 program once again, because State support for

1 overall coordination and collaboration on  
2 protocol development is a high priority and  
3 additional funding is being sought and is  
4 anticipated to be made available. This has  
5 the highest support from both the Federal  
6 Subsistence Board and from the highest levels  
7 of ADF&G. That concludes my remarks. If you  
8 have any questions?

9 MR. O'HARA: Any questions,  
10 Council members? Being funded, maybe I missed  
11 a dollar amount in here if it's in our packet.

12 MS. McCLENAHAN: I don't have that  
13 for you. I'm sorry.

14 MR. O'HARA: That's okay.

15 MS. McCLENAHAN: There's an  
16 agreement document that has been renewed  
17 yearly and has been renewed and may be a  
18 longer-term one now. I'm sorry, I don't know  
19 what the amount is. Whatever that amount is  
20 it will be elevated in the near future.

21 MR. O'HARA: That is marching on,  
22 though?

23 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yes, it is. It's  
24 under control.

25 MR. O'HARA: Thank you very much.  
26 Appreciate that a lot. King Salmon Fisheries,  
27 I believe, is next. We finished with Alaska  
28 Peninsula-Becharof National Wildlife Refuge  
29 yesterday. King Salmon Fisheries, Jim Larson  
30 and crew. Jim, how are you?

31 MR. LARSON: Fine. Jim Larson.  
32 I'm the project leader of the King Salmon  
33 Fishery Resource office, U.S. Fish and  
34 Wildlife Service. I just wanted to give you  
35 an update on our activities this summer. I'm  
36 going to start with Kevin Simms. He's going  
37 to talk about our Togiak Video Salmon  
38 Enumeration Project. That's a  
39 subsistence-funded program. So Kevin is a  
40 biological technician that did the work this  
41 summer. So he'll give you a little high-tech  
42 update of what we did.

1  
2 MR. SIMMS: Like Jim said, my name  
3 is Kevin Simms. This summer we were trying to  
4 develop a method of counting salmon on the  
5 Ongivinuik River, a tributary to the Togiak,  
6 using some video technology. I'm working off  
7 methods that were developed by Tad Otis with  
8 the ADF&G. Basically what we found is that  
9 the project is possible to do. We had some  
10 problems producing power out on the wilderness  
11 area, but we feel that we can overcome these  
12 issues. And with a few changes in stuff it is  
13 possible to run the video escapement project  
14 on these tributaries, and we want to move into  
15 the main river eventually. But using the  
16 tributaries, the count in the tributaries  
17 eventually will give us an index for the runs  
18 of not just the sockeye salmon that the tower  
19 is already counting, but all salmon species in  
20 the river. We've got a little bit of a video  
21 clip just to kind of show you guys what we've  
22 been doing.

23 (Video clip was shown.)

24 MR. SIMMS: You can see the fish  
25 moving up the stream there. What we did is we  
26 set up four cameras, two above-water cameras  
27 and two below-water cameras. You can see what  
28 we were looking at with the cameras; the  
29 above-water cameras counting the fish and the  
30 below-water cameras determining species, which  
31 has been one of the major issues in the Togiak  
32 River.

33 MR. LARSON: He was just going to  
34 show some pictures of the site and show the  
35 cameras and stuff. Mainly we wanted to show  
36 the underwater video. I think there's a lot  
37 of potential for this technology and we're  
38 going to continue to look at its application  
39 in other areas. We still have a lot of work  
40 to do on the Togiak River. I mean, the  
41 ultimate goal there is to estimate the  
42 escapement of all the salmon species in there.  
43 It's been an ongoing issue and we have one  
44 more year of exploratory work. The  
45 tributaries is kind of a fall-back position.  
46 We would still like to do an overall estimate  
47 and to do that we have to get into the main

1 river. So we're going to probably focus on  
2 the main river this coming year to see what we  
3 can do. But it definitely has more turbidity  
4 issues. That's why we tried to run sonar in  
5 there in the past. Anyway, we're going to  
6 continue to develop that program. Any  
7 questions about the video stuff?

8 MR. HEYANO: Is this going to take  
9 the place of the weir?

10 MR. LARSON: Yeah. The weir --  
11 basically last year we gave a presentation  
12 saying it's not feasible. Togiak River is  
13 just way too big. We did a feasibility the  
14 year before and actually produced a report.  
15 It's too deep; it's too fast. Without getting  
16 the Corps of Engineers in there -- if we  
17 wanted to develop a hydroelectric project,  
18 it's probably feasible to put a weir in the  
19 Togiak, but -- and you're looking at a very  
20 major, major structure to do the Togiak. It's  
21 way beyond what we think we're capable of  
22 doing. That's why we're looking at these  
23 alternatives.

24 MR. O'HARA: Kevin, the water is  
25 clear there, obviously, most of the time. Is  
that right?

MR. SIMMS: Yeah, in the  
tributaries?

MR. O'HARA: Uh-huh.

MR. SIMMS: Yeah, the water is  
clear. We actually did some visibility  
comparisons in the Togiak River compared to  
the Ongivinuk. It seems later in the season  
it's definitely clear enough that these  
cameras will work.

MR. O'HARA: I guess what I relate  
that to is I had the privilege of going up the  
Yukon and the Kuskokwim with a subsistence  
team and some of the Federal board members  
invited some of us to come along, which was  
really a great privilege to be able to see  
what they do up there in subsistence because  
it's so different from what we do over here.



1 They would have little nets that they would  
2 drift with different mesh sizes for a period  
3 of time and try to calculate over a period of  
4 time what species of salmon they were catching  
5 and it was really, really difficult because  
6 the river has a lot of snags and a lot wood in  
7 it during this period of time. You could put  
8 your hand in and you couldn't see your hand.  
9 This would not work in that system?

10 MR. SIMMS: I don't think so.

11 MR. O'HARA: They really need a  
12 counting system there. I don't know what the  
13 answer is.

14 MR. LARSON: The Togiak has some  
15 of those problems early on. It's pretty  
16 turbid. We tried to operate gillnets and it's  
17 a highly biased gear.

18 MR. O'HARA: They've tried sonar.  
19 They use it all the time.

20 MR. LARSON: But when you've got  
21 five species, I would be very cautious.  
22 That's it for the video.

23 The other person here is Mike  
24 Edwards. He's a recent addition to our  
25 permanent staff. He was hired under the  
26 in-season management position funded by  
27 subsistence. That's only kind of part of his  
28 duties. He's also doing resource monitoring.  
29 He operated -- supervised the Ugashik tower  
30 project and then he provides the staff support  
31 for the in-season management. I also expect  
32 him to do a lot of our office coordination  
33 with the local Native groups and project  
34 identification and initiation. He's going to  
35 multi-task for us as he learns the ropes  
36 around Bristol Bay, although he has been here  
37 for several years as a technician. So he's  
38 not new to Bristol Bay, and actually is  
39 probably one of the few people, other than the  
40 board members, that was born in Alaska.  
41 Anyway, Mike is going to give a quick update  
42 on the Ugashik tower project. That's another  
43 subsistence-funded project basically. I'll  
44 let Mike talk.

1           MR. EDWARDS: Good morning. Like  
2 Jim said, my name is Mike Edwards with the  
3 King Salmon Fisheries office. Our office  
4 began the operation of the enumeration tower  
5 at the outlet of Lower Ugashik Lake on the  
6 26th of July at the conclusion of the State's  
7 sockeye counting operation, and we continued  
8 counting through the 28th of September. The  
9 first coho were not seen until the 2nd of  
10 August, and then the highest daily count we  
11 had occurred on the 16th of September when we  
12 had an estimated 534 coho pass the tower. For  
13 the season, the total estimated escapement in  
14 the Ugashik Lakes was 3,606 fish. Of our  
15 sampling, what age and sex sampling we were  
able to complete, we determined that 82  
percent of the run were age two-one fish,  
which are actually four-year-old fish, and  
that falls right in line with all the  
available data for other coho stocks in  
Bristol Bay. It seems that most coho stocks  
in Bristol Bay seem to be two-one fish. This  
was the first year of running the tower, so  
we've got two more years of counting there.  
We're exploring the option of taking some of  
Kevin's video equipment down there and seeing  
if we can do video escapement down there and  
actually get counts 24 hours a day instead of  
the way the current counts are conducted.

16           MR. O'HARA: Any questions,  
17 Council members? Well, we appreciate being  
18 able to get an idea. I think one of the  
19 biggest concerns we've had -- and I hope money  
20 is somewhere available -- to try to figure out  
21 what's happening with the fishery after July  
the 23rd or whatever. We've had a pretty  
abundant amount of silvers this past fall.

22           Thank you very much for your  
23 report. Is there anything else, Jim?

24           MR. LARSON: Yes, just a quick  
25 update on a few other projects. Actually, on  
that Ugashik, we were pretty surprised of the  
low run in there. We'll continue that  
project. Definitely we were expecting a  
higher run. That was a good cooperative  
project with the BBNA and the State. We had a  
staff member from the State. We had a couple  
people from BBNA kind of cycle through. It's

1 real important to have some consistency and I  
2 think BBNA has been real good to work with on  
3 that to provide some people. We identified  
4 some real sharp people there that I think will  
benefit a lot of the monitoring programs here  
in Bristol Bay provided by Bristol Bay Native  
Association.

5 We have a new project we were able  
6 to fund this year with the cooperative Fish  
7 and Wildlife Unit up at university through --  
8 we managed to do that through salary savings  
9 this year to look at resident fish in Ugashik  
10 Lakes, specifically we want to focus in on  
11 whitefish and some of the other fish that  
12 haven't been looked at. That was kind of born  
13 out of a lot of what we're hearing from this  
14 Council and around the area about a general  
decline in some of these other resident fish.  
We're going to take a little different bent  
from just salmon monitoring and look at some  
of the ecology in some lakes. We chose  
Ugashik because we had some other funding,  
some matching funds from BRD to do some lake  
trout work. So we're going to combine this  
and we're putting on a couple graduate  
students and we'll be starting that work this  
coming year.

Another interesting project that  
we did this summer was we took core samples  
from Ugashik and Becharof Lakes. This is part  
of Dr. Bruce Finney's long-term productivity  
work. He looks at the core samples and  
relates that back to sockeye salmon  
productivity. We believe these samples will  
probably be able to go back at least several  
thousand years to document what the historical  
run sizes were. He's done a little bit of  
work on shorter cores and those went back 3-  
or 400 years. Maybe some of you have seen  
some of his presentations. He's had samples  
out of Bristol Bay and Kodiak and Southeast.  
This is a continuation and an expansion of  
that work. The idea is to get longer cores  
and he really wanted to go back to basically  
the Ice Age, 10- to 13,000 years ago, but we  
weren't quite able to do that.

Then the other projects. We have  
three weir projects and we're continuing on  
our limnology work in Becharof and Ugashik.  
That's the end of our briefing.

1  
2 MR. O'HARA: Good. Any questions,  
Council members? Yes, Pete.

3 MR. ABRAHAM: I know we have a lot  
4 of these projects in the summertime that go on  
in Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim, Yukon. I'm going  
5 to speak for Refuge information technicians we  
have around here. The Refuge information  
6 technicians are on-call people. Us in Bristol  
Bay side over here, some of us fish during the  
7 summer, but the Yukon-Kuskokwim area up there,  
there's a lot of RIT's up there that need a  
8 job, you know, on summer projects. A few of  
them work in Togiak River over there. They  
9 are, well, I can't say -- they are reliable  
people, because they have a knowledge of a lot  
10 of things and a lot of ways, especially the  
boat motor, navigation, even working with  
11 biologists and all. There was some complaints  
in Bethel area that they like to work, because  
12 a lot of those people work maybe 40 hours in  
two month's time, and they are supporting --  
they have big families. They're doing a  
13 tremendous job on information for the Refuges.  
Like, for instance, me, you know, if I work  
14 ten hours in one month, I mean, that helps.  
But fortunately I worked in Togiak River, I  
15 think, about a week. I enjoyed it very much  
over there. Keep that in mind with the Refuge  
16 managers for openings like that, because I'm  
pretty sure they would be willing to work with  
17 you guys because they're already working for  
the Refuges already anyway. That's all I  
18 have. Thank you.

19 MR. O'HARA: Thank you, Pete.  
20 Anything else, gentlemen?

21 MR. LARSON: Yeah. I'd say  
there's tremendous opportunity for employment.  
22 We've basically doubled our seasonal staff  
with the subsistence project. I know the  
23 other offices have too. Out of the Bethel  
area there's a lot of money going towards the  
24 Yukon and Lower Kuskokwim projects, just like  
what we're doing, either weir or assessment  
25 projects. A lot of opportunity there. It's  
good to identify those people. We definitely  
want to get the local people more involved.

1     There's employment opportunities. I see it  
2     just getting better.

3             MR. O'HARA: Thank you very much.  
4     We appreciate this report Mike, Kevin and Jim.  
5     Thank you very much.

6             MR. HEYANO: When do you expect  
7     the information to be available from the core  
8     samples?

9             MR. LARSON: I don't know. It's a  
10    contract with the university, and the person  
11    that's doing it is basically going into  
12    sabbatical. I think there will be some  
13    preliminary stuff fairly soon. We collected  
14    the cores this summer, and I would think  
15    they'd be excited to look at it. I don't know  
16    when a formal report will come. I'd hope this  
17    winter.

18            MR. O'HARA: Any other questions,  
19    Council members?

20            MR. HEYANO: One more, Mr.  
21    Chairman. The 30-some-hundred coho escapement  
22    into the Ugashik, how does that compare with  
23    previous years? And did the State -- I  
24    believe in the past that was calculated  
25    through aerial surveys by the State. Did the  
26    State conduct any surveys this year?

27            MR. EDWARDS: Yes. This year's  
28    flight count were 3,240 and the year before he  
29    counted 4,400 in the two Ugashik lakes, which  
30    was his highest count in four years of flying.  
31    So it seems like -- we're right on his  
32    four-year average of flying was 2,400 in the  
33    Ugashik lakes. That's the only historical  
34    data we have on the coho runs in the lakes.

35            MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

36            MR. O'HARA: All right. Thank  
37    you. Any other questions, Council members?  
38    We appreciate it a lot. We would like to have  
39    the National Park Service, Katmai, Lake Clark  
40    Park and Preserve. Deb Liggett is not here  
41    today, but Mary McBurney and Karen Stickman  
42    are here today. Come up and give us a report,

1 if you would, please.

2 MS. McBURNEY: Good morning. Do  
3 you mind if we all sit with Aniakchak? Come  
on up, Tom.

4 MR. TOM O'HARA: Strength in  
5 numbers.

6 MR. O'HARA: Thorn in my couple of  
gorgeous roses.

7 MS. McBURNEY: Well, I would like  
8 to just also extend the apologies of Deb  
Liggett for not being able to be here today.  
9 Unfortunately her schedule didn't allow for  
it, but she wanted me to let you know that she  
10 had planned on being at the original meeting  
date. So she will join us again probably in  
the spring.

11 Let's bring you up to date on  
12 what's going on at least in Lake Clark and  
then we'll just sort of work our way through  
the park units in the area. One of the,  
13 probably, I guess, most potentially  
controversial actions that we took this last  
14 summer was implementing -- basically begin  
enforcing an existing regulation in Lake Clark  
15 which basically prohibited the use of fishing  
nets in parks and monuments and preserves  
16 except for qualified Federal subsistence  
users. We did an awful lot of homework ahead  
17 of time to inform residents, local residents  
of this action.

18 We also took a great deal of care  
in also contacting as many of the folks that  
19 we knew that had subsistence-fished under  
State regulations, but that were not local  
20 rural residents as well. So, fortunately,  
even though we had prepared for the worst in  
21 terms of perhaps having a great deal of  
controversy, it did not turn out to be a great  
22 controversy at all. Rather, I think people  
really understood the action that we took, and  
23 as a result, people got the fish that they  
needed for the most part that lived in Port  
24 Alsworth and Nondalton. And those folks that  
had fished under the Federal subsistence -- or  
25 rather the State subsistence rules, but that  
were not rural residents, were able to secure

1 their fish in other ways. So essentially we  
2 did not have any enforcement actions that were  
3 related to this particular action at all, and  
4 we anticipate that this coming year will  
5 probably remain the same. So public education  
6 really did appear to help in this respect.

7 And this was also a busy summer  
8 for Karen Stickman. She and Andrew Balluta  
9 have been working as co-investigators on a  
10 traditional ecological knowledge project.  
11 I'll turn it over to Karen to let you know  
12 what she has done up to this point.

13 MS. STICKMAN: My name is Karen  
14 Stickman. The name of the project was  
15 Collection of TEK on Harvest Patterns of  
16 Sockeye Salmon and Other Fresh Water Fish Use  
17 for Subsistence in Nondalton. Like Mary said,  
18 Andrew and I worked as the investigators. We  
19 hired two interns from the high school in  
20 Nondalton and they worked with us. We  
21 conducted 14 interviews with local elders and  
22 other residents. Most of the interview  
23 questions had to do with the harvest and use  
24 of salmon, and we also asked questions on  
25 other fish for subsistence in the area. This  
winter we plan on incorporating the  
information into the GIS database for Lake  
Clark and we'll be transcribing the  
interviews. And we're planning on completing  
the TEK project by next spring.

Andrew, do you have anything to  
add to this?

MR. BALLUTA: No, I don't have  
anything to add.

MR. O'HARA: Is that it, Karen?

MS. STICKMAN: Yeah. I think it  
was a successful project with the interviews  
this summer. People were really open and  
willing to share. Personally, this is really  
important to me, collecting TEK. I think it's  
just as important as the western science  
that's being conducted continually throughout  
our region. One of the things we're going to  
be doing is comparing what we have collected  
with Carol Ann Woody's project and just see  
what the comparisons are. So once the report

1 is done, we'll be getting that to you by next  
2 spring.

3 MR. O'HARA: Now, in this  
4 research, Karen, you were doing local fish?  
5 You're talking about trout. What were you  
6 looking at here in this project?

7 MS. STICKMAN: Most of the trout  
8 species, like rainbow, grayling, whitefish,  
9 burbot. Most of the subsistence trout  
10 species.

11 MR. O'HARA: Did you look in  
12 places like Tazimina or Sixmile Lake or how do  
13 you do this?

14 MS. STICKMAN: We used a map and  
15 we had people point out the subsistence  
16 harvest areas and also changes over time.  
17 Like, for example, salmon, spawning areas for  
18 salmon. People see changes with where salmon  
19 used to spawn and they don't anymore. So it  
20 was basically pointing out on the map and  
21 talking about the different locations. And  
22 also place names, we gathered the Dena'ina  
23 Athabaskan name of the place names and we're  
24 going to be transcribing the meaning of the  
25 place names also this winter.

16 MR. O'HARA: There's a little  
17 creek above Tazimina that goes into a lake and  
18 a lot of whitefish go into there. There's  
19 been a lot of complaints. We have gone to  
20 Nondalton for other meetings on the decline of  
21 salmon, of course, and then the amount of  
22 trout taken in Tazimina, people were concerned  
23 about that too. We appreciate you looking at  
24 that. I've often wondered how that little  
25 lake is doing. In seemed like in the past  
there was a lot of whitefish in there. I  
don't know if it still exists or not.

22 MS. STICKMAN: From the  
23 information we collected on the interviews,  
24 there's not as much. In the reports we got  
25 there's not as much whitefish and there is  
concern from a lot of the local people about  
this.



1           MR. O'HARA: I think our decline  
2     in salmon is going to be having a long-range  
3     effect on a lot of species for a long time to  
4     come. Any questions, Council members?

5           MS. KELLY: In the interviews did  
6     you ask questions about the harvest of fish,  
7     whether the levels have gone up or down?

8           MS. STICKMAN: Yes, we did.

9           MS. KELLY: So what was the trend?  
10    There was more harvest prior to --

11          MS. STICKMAN: It's been -- a lot  
12    of the reports were the last four or five  
13    years it's gone down, the salmon population  
14    has gone down, and also some of the trout  
15    species, there's been a decline in that. And  
16    then the size of some of the trout species and  
17    also salmon. The reports of smaller -- the  
18    fish being smaller in some of the trout  
19    species and salmon.

20          MR. O'HARA: Okay. All right.  
21    Andy, go ahead.

22          MR. BALLUTA: Also, we have a lot  
23    of spawning area that used to be spawning area  
24    that's declined. There's no spawning in  
25    there. One of the creeks up there in Lake  
26    Clark used to be the biggest spawning creek in  
27    Lake Clark and it's dead now.

28          MR. HEYANO: Question for Mary.  
29    How did the non-Federal subsistence users  
30    obtain their sockeye salmon?

31          MS. McBURNEY: I'm assuming  
32    through sport fisheries outside of the Park  
33    and Preserve or subsistence fisheries outside  
34    of the Park and Preserve.

35          MR. O'HARA: That was a big  
36    concern of Lee's when this was implemented.  
37    It had to be the qualified subsistence users  
38    in the area that could use the fish and  
39    non-qualified people could not. And it went  
40    off pretty well because of the projection of  
41    runs in the area.

1  
2 MS. MCBURNEY: I just reminded  
3 myself that I actually brought examples of the  
4 brochures we sent out to everyone as well just  
5 so you can kind of get a sense of how we  
6 introduced the concept to the public and  
7 communicated the message.

8 MR. O'HARA: Thank you. Anything  
9 else, Mary?

10 MS. MCBURNEY: Yes. Let me just  
11 move on a little bit here. Karen has been  
12 quite busy. She's also working with John  
13 Branson right now wrapping up a calendar  
14 project that we hope to have done and in the  
15 mailboxes by the middle of December just in  
16 time for the Christmas season. But this is a  
17 new concept, a new project for the Lake Clark  
18 Subsistence Program. We're going to be  
19 putting out a subsistence calendar that is  
20 illustrated with various photographs of  
21 contemporary and historical subsistence  
22 activities. Then the calendar itself will  
23 have dates pertaining to open seasons, closed  
24 seasons, various holidays, various bits of  
25 information regarding the Federal subsistence  
meeting cycle as well. So this will be  
something new for us and we're looking forward  
to getting feedback from all of the residents  
of our resident-zoned communities who will be  
receiving copies.

We'll be sure to put you on the  
mailing list as well.

To wrap up for Lake Clark.  
Currently the National Park Service has a  
pilot project that is just in the formative  
stages right now for training fisheries  
biotechnicians, and the goal of this project  
is to develop a program to train local  
residents to become biotechnicians to fill  
positions on NPS, National Park Service,  
subsistence and other fishery resource  
research projects.

And Lake Clark has been chosen as  
the site for this first year for the pilot  
project, which is going to be scheduled for  
this coming year, 2002. And the overreaching  
objective for this is going to be to develop a  
program that can be used throughout the

1 National Park system in Alaska so that various  
2 local parks and monuments can put on basically  
3 training programs, so that they can basically  
4 train local residents to fill available  
5 biotechnician programs and kind of bring them  
6 into the Federal employment system.

7 Now, moving on to Katmai. The  
8 Katmai subsistence staff again assisted with  
9 the distribution of Tier II caribou permits.  
10 I believe Tom tag-teamed with Orville Lind to  
11 get the job done this year. Of interest to  
12 the Council is also progress that's being made  
13 on the Kokhanok ORV study. At this point Don  
14 Callaway is compiling oral histories and other  
15 information regarding ORB use in Igiugig. The  
16 project had been expanded, I believe last  
17 year, to include Igiugig so that the Park  
18 Service could get a more complete sense of the  
19 history of use by the communities in the area  
20 and whatever use that they may have within  
21 Katmai Preserve. So Don is planning on having  
22 that pretty much wrapped up, I believe, by the  
23 spring. So that will be an opportunity for us  
24 to be able to report back to you on the  
25 progress there.

Also, Don Callaway, Jeanne Schaff  
and Bill Schneider from the Project Jukebox  
project with the University of Alaska in  
Fairbanks have basically completed their work  
on producing a CD-Rom based project of oral  
histories that were conducted in King Salmon,  
South Naknek, Kakhonak, Levelock and Igiugig.  
I believe that a copy of that is now on  
display, or at least available for public  
access, at the visitors' center here in King  
Salmon. I know that the chairman had an  
opportunity to accompany Don and Bill  
Schneider and actually see the CD-Rom and the  
program, how it turned out. And one of the  
things that I would like to offer to the  
Council is in the spring, if time and  
opportunity present itself, that we have Bill  
Schneider and Don Callaway come and share the  
Project Jukebox product. This is something  
that we would like to see perhaps even  
expanded in this area if there's interest.

And, finally -- not finally. On  
the Alagnak, to bring you up to date there.  
We had more river ranger coverage this year.  
There were two river rangers that were

1 assigned to the Alagnak, which greatly  
2 improved our law enforcement coverage of the  
3 river corridor this year. Fortunately, even  
4 with the better coverage, or maybe because of  
5 the better coverage there were no serious  
6 offenses that were reported. And it does  
7 appear that the stronger law enforcement  
8 presence, though, we did make more contacts  
9 with people so there were more verbal  
10 warnings, a few more citations for minor  
11 violations. This is something that we're  
12 planning on continuing. And, in addition,  
13 these two river rangers also are partnered up  
14 with State of Alaska Fish and Game protection  
15 officers and Alaska Department of  
16 Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Coast  
17 Guard for various projects and controls over  
18 the summer season.

19 One thing that will be coming up  
20 next year that may be of interest to you is  
21 that the Katmai Biological Resources Division  
22 is going to be working with the University of  
23 Washington to conduct a social science survey  
24 of the Alagnak in 2002. The idea is to  
25 document the actual use of the river by three  
26 different user groups, if you will. And those  
27 would be the commercial users, the private  
28 users and the subsistence users. And it's a  
29 different kind of concept that they're trying  
30 to get their hands around. It's trying to  
31 quantify, if you will, the quality of  
32 experience that these individual groups have  
33 when they're out on the river. Now, exactly  
34 how the study is designed and how they're  
35 going to go about collecting this information  
36 is not entirely clear to me. But it sounds  
37 like kind of an interesting model that they're  
38 going after, as opposed to just looking at,  
39 say, number of fish or number of animals that  
40 people are harvesting. They're actually  
41 trying to get to, was it a satisfying  
42 experience? Was it what you expected? And,  
43 if not, why not? So I'll be looking forward  
44 to seeing how that's put together and what the  
45 responses come out to be. It should be very  
46 interesting.

47 Finally, we get to the Aniakchak  
48 National Monument and Preserve. And the  
49 Aniakchak SRC was scheduled originally to meet  
50 in November, but there has been some

1 difficulty with the Federal register. And one  
2 of the new policies of the Federal register is  
3 they would like to have meetings noticed  
4 anywhere from 60 to 90 days in advance, which  
5 for SRC purposes is a little bit difficult.  
6 Because of that, it sort of messed up our  
7 plans for the Lake Clark SRC meeting, which we  
8 had scheduled prior to this Regional Council  
9 meeting so that they would have an opportunity  
10 to comment on items that you would be  
11 considering. But unfortunately the Federal  
12 register notice was not posted in time, and  
13 also the events of September 11th also had an  
14 effect on timing as well. And so we ended up  
15 having a subsistence workshop where Karen and  
16 I provided briefings on what was going on in  
Lake Clark. But as a result, the Aniakchak  
SRC was not able to schedule a meeting for  
their traditional meeting time in November.  
Right now we do have placeholder dates that  
have been identified in February so that we  
can meet that 60- to 90-day deadline. And the  
way that the Federal register notice is  
written, there is some latitude for changing  
the time and place of those dates if they  
don't end up being entirely convenient to the  
SRC members.

That being said, I would like to  
go ahead and turn the rest of the report over  
to Tom O'Hara, our subsistence pilot for  
Aniakchak.

MR. TOM O'HARA: Good afternoon,  
or morning, Council and Chair, Dad. My name  
is Tom O'Hara. I'm the pilot for Katmai  
National Park and Aniakchak and the Alagnak.  
I'm also involved in law enforcement for all  
three areas and work with the SRC group down  
in Aniakchak. You had a bunch of concerns  
yesterday that you hit Fish and Wildlife with  
pretty hard about their monitoring of moose  
hunters and the subsistence harvest and  
non-subsistence take. Right off the bat, I'll  
tell you we did a lousy job of monitoring our  
three areas this year. Correction, two areas  
we didn't do a very good job on. The Alagnak  
we actually covered fairly well. Some of the  
reasons being that the terrorist attacks kind  
of grounded our airplanes, so that kind of put  
some of us out of business for a while. Folks

1 in the Alagnak were in boats, so they were  
able to continue doing their job.

2 We had budget shortfalls. One of  
3 our biggest concerns was that we had some ATV  
4 activity from some of the villages interfering  
5 with lawful hunts. So that took some of our  
6 time to deal with those and out of short  
7 seasons it just took up a little too much  
8 time. Fish and Game, like you guys know, they  
9 were short-handed this year. They still have  
10 an advantage; they have a helicopter and they  
11 can just drop in and check on camps.

12 Fish and Wildlife probably did the  
13 best job of covering their area. Dave was out  
14 there every single day with either one plane  
15 or another plane, out there checking camps.  
16 Our moose surveys this last year were very  
17 difficult to accomplish with no snow. Kind of  
18 hard to get a good count, accurate count. We  
19 only got one of our areas done out of two that  
20 we were concerned about. So hopefully this  
21 year with a little snow we'll be able to get  
22 our moose counts done. Hopefully, we'll start  
23 those tomorrow.

24 We've got a lot of proposed  
25 changes for our monitoring next year. We knew  
right off the bat that we didn't do a good job  
of covering our areas. Next year we're  
planning on having two planes, two pilots  
during the moose seasons, and getting out in  
the field and actually checking kill sites and  
seeing how much meat is actually being taken  
out. Just educating our seasonal law  
enforcement officers more. It's hard to get  
local hire guys to come out and work during  
moose season, or a lot of times during the  
summer even. So educating our staff is one of  
the biggest things for us and teaching them  
what is usable meat from the ears to the tail.  
So our concession specialist is also working  
at getting us some more numbers.

One of your biggest concerns is  
harvest by non-subsistence users, and we have  
in Aniakchak, in the Preserve, we have three  
commercial operators that can use that and  
guide in it. And in Katmai Preserve we have  
two commercial operators that are legal guides  
to work in that area and that's it. Then you  
take and look at the amount of people that you  
can drop off by air taxis. And numbers I

1 pulled up real quick, thanks to Mary being  
2 able to use a computer very well, is it looks  
3 like we have close to 60 air taxis that can  
4 drop off hunters in these areas and 18 big  
5 game transporters. So, rough numbers, it  
6 looks like 85 planes and five boat operators  
7 could drop off hunters at any given time.

8 If you were able to -- us as  
9 Federal employees can't even think about  
10 changing one of the laws which you guys talked  
11 about yesterday a little bit, was changing the  
12 status of moose to a big game animal. That's  
13 a State regulation. It would have to take a  
14 State law change to include moose as a big  
15 game animal or it would have to be guided.  
16 That would sure eliminate a lot of our  
17 difficulties. You get numbers from the State  
18 as well. The State says that close to 90, 95  
19 percent of their moose violations are by  
20 non-resident, non-guided hunters who have no  
21 clue of how much work it is to take a moose  
22 out of the field. So, therefore, they get  
23 part of it out and they go home. And 90 to 95  
24 percent of their tickets they write are on  
25 those folks. Very few tickets are written on  
our guided hunts. They just have too much at  
stake, too much to lose.

So if you guys were able to change  
those regs in any way, that would be even more  
of a help to us. I think since 1996 we've had  
a total of 47 moose taken out of the Aniakchak  
area. So that's, what, five years. So we're  
looking at about nine moose a year, 10 moose a  
year out of that area. And we don't have a  
clue, you know, how many drop-off hunts we're  
missing, how many moose are being taken out of  
there that we can't control. So if you have  
any ideas of how we can do things better, we  
want to do that. That's about all I have.

MR. O'HARA: Council members, any  
questions? Robert.

MR. HEYANO: Thanks. Then, the  
people who hunt in Unit 9E, I believe it is,  
aren't required to do the State Fish and Game  
video on how to take care of meat and et  
cetera?

MR. TOM O'HARA: No, that's only

1 17B, I believe.

2 MR. O'HARA: They're working on  
3 it, though, at the visitors' center to try to  
4 get that done.

5 MR. LEESIK: We requested both --  
6 there's two different videos. There's one for  
7 judging antler size on a moose and one on  
8 field-taking of meat, two classes that the  
9 State offers, and we have requested from the  
10 State to get copies of those to be in the  
11 visitors' center. We're also talking with air  
12 taxi operators. We might make it a special  
13 condition that they require their people  
14 before they go out in the field to watch those  
15 videos.

16 MR. O'HARA: Anything else?

17 MR. HEYANO: A couple more, Mr.  
18 Chairman. Transporters are required to  
19 document where they take --

20 MR. TOM O'HARA: To the State?

21 MR. HEYANO: To the State. So  
22 that information should be available.

23 MR. TOM O'HARA: Right. If you  
24 can figure out how to pull it up or get it  
25 from the State. Becky is working on getting  
26 harvest numbers from all of our commercial  
27 operators. That's something she's working on,  
28 changing our regulations for the paperwork  
29 that people who get permits with us to work as  
30 air taxis. And she's probably going to be the  
31 one that can help us figure out how to get  
32 those numbers from the State to incorporate  
33 those in with all the numbers to add them all  
34 up and get one total number.

35 MR. O'HARA: Any other questions?

36 MS. McBURNEY: I just might add  
37 that that's going to be as of this coming  
38 year. It is going to be a requirement that  
39 each of those air taxis, that they are going  
40 to provide that harvest information that they  
41 provide to the State, so that will also be



1 reported back to us so we get a sense of  
2 what's coming out.

3 MR. HEYANO: I think, the way I  
4 understand State regulations is air taxis  
5 aren't required to fill out any paperwork to  
6 take hunters into the field, because they're  
7 basically on a charter rate; whereas  
8 transporters can actually have a fixed number  
9 for taking a group of people out and they're  
10 required to do the paperwork. So I don't  
11 think there is an existing law that requires  
12 air taxis to do paperwork on drop-off hunters.

13 MS. McBURNEY: My understanding  
14 that what Becky is going to be requiring,  
15 though -- which is why I handed out this kind  
16 of passel of papers -- to give you kind of a  
17 sense of how many incidental business permits,  
18 for example, which is where these air taxis  
19 come under. So as a condition of the  
20 incidental business permit, those air taxi  
21 operators would be reporting, you know,  
22 whatever harvest there might be from hunters  
23 that they take in and drop off.

24 MR. HEYANO: One more, Mr.  
25 Chairman. Can you elaborate a little more on  
this ATV issue and possible interference with  
lawful hunting activities? What's happening  
there?

17 MR. TOM O'HARA: Well, some of the  
18 local communities are taking ATVs into the  
19 Preserve and running them through the swamps  
20 and tearing up land that we have discussed  
21 that there's areas that you really shouldn't  
22 drive an ATV in. The Preserve in Aniakchak is  
23 not legal for ATV use. We're kind of waiting  
24 for Igiugig and Kakhanok to get their study  
25 done to see how that goes. The SRC wants to  
wait and see which way that goes. If it  
doesn't go good, they want to try a different  
route. If it goes good, they want to take the  
same route. They would like to be able to  
have access into some of those areas. Right  
now we're doing this number (indicating) part  
of the time if they'll keep it out of  
sensitive areas. We know it's a local  
concern, but when they are using ATVs and

1 running around real close to other camps and  
2 interfering with other people that are legally  
3 hunting, that have a right to be there also,  
4 then it takes us away from our other  
5 monitoring and we have to go find them and  
6 talk to them and do a little more education.

7 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

8 MR. O'HARA: Do you have anything  
9 else, Robert?

10 MR. HEYANO: No. Thank you, Mr.  
11 Chairman.

12 MR. O'HARA: I guess, Tom, we  
13 appreciate you coming before the Council  
14 today. But I want to again -- I believe the  
15 Federal Preserve and Park -- and it's hard to  
16 differentiate different land uses -- is  
17 considerably smaller down in Aniakchak area  
18 for moose as compared to what the Refuge is  
19 doing.

20 MR. TOM O'HARA: We're tiny  
21 compared to Fish and Wildlife's land and State  
22 land.

23 MR. O'HARA: We see the decline in  
24 caribou. Granted, a hunter takes 15 minutes  
25 by Cherokee from Port Heiden up to Joe Kluch's  
camp in Meshik; that's 15 minutes of flying  
time at 125 knots. That's a long way from a  
subsistence user. However, the hue and cry  
comes against the Joe Klutch's of the world.  
What I guess we need to do in this Council is  
to make sure that we keep a good healthy  
population going, and even, if possible, keep  
these guides and hunters away from the people  
who have a 25 horse motor, who don't have a  
185 on amphibious boats and \$250,000 worth of  
equipment for \$15,000 per moose clients. It's  
a whole different ballgame. We want that  
population to remain healthy so that the  
subsistence users can have access to some  
moose, at least. They can't even begin to  
compete with the drop-off people. There's  
just no way.

26 We appreciate the report this  
27 morning. As we mentioned to the Refuge

1 people, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, whoever they  
2 are, a bunch of people, we really would like  
3 to continue to have a good moose count in the  
area, and I guess you're going to be doing  
that shortly, huh?

4 MR. TOM O'HARA: Yeah. In this  
5 last couple of years we've, with Dave Cox  
6 being there and Pete being at the State, we've  
7 worked real hard at the three of us picking  
8 out areas where, okay, we'll go here, you're  
9 going there, and somebody else go over here.  
10 We really try to communicate where we're going  
11 and what we're doing so we can cover the most  
12 area. Our chief ranger is also working on  
13 trying to make it so we can be legally  
14 deputized by the State to also land on State  
15 lands. I mean, we're so restricted to our  
16 little five million acres that we have total  
17 on the Peninsula. That's all we can work in.  
18 We're working on agreements with the State  
19 that, you know, to get to Aniakchak we cover a  
lot of State land and Federal land. If we see  
something, why can't we stop. We're trained  
law enforcement officers. They're working on  
agreements with that. The State and Fish and  
Wildlife have huge areas of land. There's  
only four pilots out here, so it's a big job.  
I've heard some of your Council members talk  
outside the meeting of rumors of buffer zones  
around communities. Have you guys looked into  
that anymore?

17 MR. O'HARA: February, I would  
18 imagine. I'm really seriously considering  
19 that. It's very important for the Ugashik  
area.

20 MR. TOM O'HARA: Our SRCs would be  
21 interested in any information you have before  
22 that if you come up with anything. Our SRC  
23 likes to meet, the Aniakchak SRC like to meet  
24 after this meeting and then just before your  
25 next meeting. They want to see what you guys  
do at this one, talk about that, and then in  
February come up with proposals or concerns  
they have before your next meeting. So we're  
hopefully going to have an informational  
meeting soon, and then a full board meeting  
just before your next meeting.

1 MR. O'HARA: Just for the purpose  
2 of the Council again. You take someone like  
3 Upper Ugashik or the guys who have access to  
4 with a Lund to go and hunt; then Pumice has  
5 the same access with floatplanes. I'm  
6 seriously thinking about a 10-mile buffer zone  
7 around some of those area for subsistence use  
8 only on moose and caribou, well, moose. You  
9 go down to Chigniks where guys can go up the  
10 lake and have access there where the guides  
11 have access as well. I've been really thinking  
12 about that.

13 Anything else, Council members?  
14 Streaming right along. Thank you very much.  
15 Appreciate your report today.

16 The Branch thing, the biologist or  
17 the lady that's doing the work on the Alagnak  
18 went away, and Deb Liggett's not here today to  
19 talk about it and that's fine. Alaska  
20 Department of Fish and Game, the last report  
21 for the day and then after that any public  
22 comment.

23 Slim, appreciate you being here  
24 today, and Dan.

25 MR. MORISTAD: Good morning,  
Chairman, members of the board. I handed out  
yesterday the season summary for the  
Commercial Fish Division. I'm Slim Moristad  
with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
and I'm with the Division of Commercial  
Fisheries. I won't go through the whole  
thing; you can just read it. But I guess a  
couple of the key things: It was fairly close  
to the forecast of 24-, actual run was 22  
million versus the 24 million forecast. We  
made escapements in all systems except, again,  
the Kvichak. That had a million escapement.  
We were in river on the Naknek to protect the  
Kvichak on June 28th. That's the earliest  
we've ever done it. One of the significant  
things that came about this year was the  
composition of the total run. The forecast  
was for approximately 50-50, 2-ocean to  
3-ocean return. What actually came out is it  
was a little over 19 million, 3-ocean and just  
a little over three million, 2-ocean return.  
So it's going to make a significant -- that's  
very significant. And depending on the how

1 the forecast goes for 2002, one wouldn't  
2 expect a big 3-ocean forecast for 2002.

3 MR. O'HARA: You had a really big  
4 fish in the Naknek river, huh? Massive.

5 MR. MORISTAD: Uh-huh. The  
6 largest we've ever seen.

7 MR. O'HARA: The gillnets became  
8 seiners, actually, just rolling in. Probably  
9 100,000 fish fell out of the nets and died?

10 MR. MORISTAD: I'd go quite a bit  
11 higher than that.

12 MR. O'HARA: That's pretty scary.

13 MR. MORISTAD: You could walk for  
14 miles and there was fish.

15 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. Pretty  
16 incredible.

17 Is that all you have to say?

18 MR. MORISTAD: That's all I was  
19 going to do. Robin wants to go.

20 MR. O'HARA: Dan?

21 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. Dan  
22 Dunaway, Sport Fish Division of Fish and Game  
23 based in Dillingham. I'm going to try to keep  
24 it short and sweet, too.

25 I handed out a preliminary  
summary. I want to make note that I haven't  
been able to get it fully approved out of  
Anchorage, but I thought I would let this out  
to give the basics of what went on. Probably  
the most interesting thing is I tried to give  
a fairly clear count of how we proceeded in  
the Kvichak River drainage with the poor  
sockeye run there. I coordinated with Slim  
and the Park Service. We invoked the In-river  
Management Plan that was adopted by the Board  
of Fish, dropped the bag limit to two, and  
closed the critical subsistence areas. I  
think it worked pretty well.

I also handed out a one-page brief  
on the Alagnak Creel Survey that's funded in

1 part by Federal subsistence money. That lists  
the main points there. We only succeeded in  
2 getting one local person to apply for a  
position and we did hire that person. We are  
3 just beginning to edit the data, so I don't  
really have much more than those brief  
4 summaries. I wanted to call your attention --  
there had been a question earlier, there's  
5 been some discussion that sport fish is  
entering into a strategic planning process. I  
6 tried to get some more questionnaires to hand  
out. There's little cards available, floating  
7 around. We're soliciting public input on  
that. And the main thrust there is we want to  
8 become a more effective division and more  
accountable. And we encourage public  
9 participation in that. On our web site  
there's a place where you can log on and make  
10 comments available that way, or you can write  
in.

11 The last thing: We're in the  
earlier stages of developing future proposals  
12 for Federal subsistence funding. We don't  
have them prioritized yet, but one of them we  
13 would probably submit again is assessment of  
sport fish activity on the Newhalen sockeye  
14 salmon fishery, Alagnak River rainbow trout  
population assessment is another one. A  
15 Newhalen River-Tazimina River rainbow trout  
population assessment. I know I've heard  
16 concerns about that. I've started the early  
stages of talking to Jim Larson about  
17 coordinating a joint King Salmon project on  
the Naknek River. Using their weir on the big  
18 creek is an essential part of that program.  
That's about all I have.

19  
20 MR. O'HARA: Any questions,  
Council members? Andy, you have to run at  
9:30?

21  
22 MR. BALLUTA: Yes.

23 MR. O'HARA: Well, thanks for  
being here. We'll see you down the road  
somewhere.  
24 Shirley.

25 MS. KELLY: Why aren't you guys  
having a strategic planning meeting in

1 Southwest Alaska?

2 MR. DUNAWAY: Mr. Chairman, I  
3 asked that question too. I think it came down  
4 to money. I pushed again when I attended --  
5 there is a staff meeting that we did internal  
6 strategic planning discussion as well as  
7 public meetings and talked to our director  
8 about it. He was trying to brainstorm a way  
9 to afford one. I think it was a missed  
10 opportunity that we didn't have a table or  
11 some sort of a presentation at the AFN  
12 meeting. I brought that up too. I think  
13 other things -- they didn't see that  
14 opportunity soon enough to try to find a way  
15 to do that. I think it would have been a  
16 great deal. But it is available on the  
17 Internet or get ahold of me. I can provide  
18 the cards and the addresses. I think  
19 eventually there may be some point where the  
20 advisory committees -- this is really the  
21 infant stages, but I think the advisory  
22 committees will have an opportunity to provide  
23 comments.

24 MR. O'HARA: When does the next  
25 advisory committee meet here in Naknek?

MR. MORISTAD: They haven't  
scheduled anything.

MR. O'HARA: What were your  
numbers for escapement in the Branch?

MR. MORISTAD: Towerwise it was  
615,000 for sockeye.

MR. O'HARA: What did you see in  
the streams?

MR. MORISTAD: 300,000.

MR. O'HARA: You saw 300,000. On  
an average what do you see in there?

MR. MORISTAD: The index goal is  
185 for aerial index. We only fly it one  
time, so you got to pick the best time and run  
timing is different for, say, on the Idavain  
and that; whereas in Funnel Creek it was

1     probably 80 percent dead, but yet in Kulik and  
2     that it was right on. So we got one time to  
3     fly and we just try to pick the best time. So  
4     you're missing some and doing okay in the  
5     others, unless you flew it two or three  
6     different times.

7             MR. O'HARA: But you're probably  
8     happy that you got adequate escapement up in  
9     that area.

10            MR. MORISTAD: Oh, yeah. It's  
11     above its biological escapement goal.

12            MR. O'HARA: What did you get in  
13     the Kvichak this year?

14            MR. MORISTAD: About one-one.  
15

16            MR. O'HARA: So you're a million  
17     short, huh? The subsistence needs seem to  
18     have been met up there, however, and I talked  
19     to a lot of people and they were at least  
20     happy they got a certain amount of fish. Any  
21     other questions, Council members? Robert.

22            MR. HEYANO: Thank you. I just  
23     need to -- to develop a sport fish strategic  
24     plan and hold the meetings in Anchorage,  
25     Fairbanks and Juneau and not at least one  
26     outside in rural Alaska where probably the  
27     premiere sport fishing takes place and the  
28     impact to the local residents is probably the  
29     greatest. I think that hopefully you can  
30     convince your superiors that they need to hold  
31     meetings out in rural Alaska so they can get  
32     the impacts as to how they would like to see  
33     the sport fishery being developed in Alaska.  
34     Because they probably feel the impacts greater  
35     than any other person living in Alaska, since  
36     it happens in their front and back yard. I  
37     think hopefully that you can guys can find  
38     some funding and have some meetings out in  
39     Alaska.

40            I know that the advisory  
41     committees here in Bristol Bay are funded for  
42     only one meeting. Although the board got  
43     their funding, somebody chose to reduce the  
44     funding for advisory committees and it brings  
45     up a legal question, I guess. You know, you



1 have to have two meetings a year to remain a  
2 viable advisory committee. If there's funding  
for one, somebody has to work on that.

The question I had for Slim is:

3 When will you be able to tell if the OEG in  
the Naknek River actually saves kings and chum  
4 salmon?

5 MR. MORISTAD: In numbers, it  
looked like it certainly did this year based  
6 on -- we put 1.8 up there, but I fished every  
tide. Every single tide from June 28th until  
7 July 20th, we fished every single tide. We  
still put 1.8, and that was centering around  
8 the tide stages and it certainly did put more  
kings in the system because I saw more. They  
9 were less damaged too, based on net scarring  
and so forth. So I believe it did. It's a  
10 significant cost. But I think the return was  
-- we made it for kings.

11 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.  
12

13 MR. SAMUELSON: So to follow up to  
that, these in-river fisheries, you got to  
14 fish them harder to get more -- for sockeye to  
get more kings up there? Come on, Slim, you  
can't make me believe that.

15 MR. MORISTAD: Well, when you've  
16 got six million -- when you've got  
six-and-a-half million Naknek return, almost 7  
17 million Naknek return.

18 MR. SAMUELSON: No, I'm relating  
the king escapement to as much fishing as you  
19 had in the river. It seems that what the  
board was trying to achieve by tinkering with  
20 the OEG, bumping it up to two million, was  
offset by your opening the fishery in-river.  
21 You had an in-river fishery basically all year  
here.

22 MR. MORISTAD: Uh-huh.  
23

24 MR. SAMUELSON: You must have had  
a phenomenal king run, because you had all  
this fishing in-the river and you still had  
25 more kings escape. Seems like the two didn't  
balance out.

1 MR. MORISTAD: I fished the  
2 15-foot tide stages, so periods were like  
3 three-and-a-half to five hours in length. And  
4 I had a tremendous amount of time then in  
5 between for movement, and one of the problems  
6 you get when you're in-river and if you're  
7 trying to control an escapement up to one-one  
8 or one-four, you get fish through the low  
9 waters, and then that's when you're scooping  
10 up the kings in the low waters in the  
11 channels. And fishing that amount of time and  
12 in the 15-foot tide stages kept a lot of, you  
13 know, nets off the bottom. But I would say  
14 the king run was larger this year than it was  
15 last year or the year before. I won't argue  
16 the case there. There were more kings this  
17 year.

18 MR. SAMUELSON: In the Naknek  
19 drainage how many kings did you have escape?

20 MR. MORISTAD: I counted, aerial  
21 survey index flies, it was close to 6,000.

22 MR. O'HARA: Any more questions?  
23 Gentlemen, thank you for coming. We  
24 appreciate you taking the time to talk to us  
25 today.

Any public comments that we would  
like to have prior to shutting the meeting  
down today? This is Alan.

MR. ASPLUNDE. My name is Alan  
Asplunde and I'm a local resident for 70-plus  
years. My concern is in reference to the  
subsistence waterfowl. And the understanding  
I have now is maybe this year we're going to  
be fortunate to maybe set some regulation  
where it would be actually legal. Right now  
they're using a method where it's a household  
scoring card that we get, I think, quarterly,  
what you've taken and whatever for these last  
few years. My concern is to just show you  
some history. I told Dan I was going to  
filibuster, but I'm not going to really do  
that. I'm only going to take about seven  
minutes here.

Starting as a young lad, I was  
about ten years old in 1940, '41, going up the

1 river here to start doing our waterfowl spring  
 2 goose hunt. I used to go with my godfather  
 3 and various families that did the same thing.  
 4 We used to go up what we call Strawberry Point  
 5 which is the end of 18 runway at King Salmon.  
 6 That worked well. In the meantime, the  
 7 regulators at that time was the Bureau of  
 8 Fisheries and the territorial game warden.  
 9 These were the regulators. They were aware we  
 10 were doing this. But you did it with an  
 11 understanding that you didn't just go shoot  
 12 out the whole country. Just took what you  
 13 need.

14 In the meantime, the infantry  
 15 division that went down to Atu, Adak at the  
 16 time was stationed at King Salmon and also the  
 17 Army Air Corps and the Corps of Engineers.  
 18 Naturally with us shooting right off the end  
 19 of the runway, obviously creating a big --  
 20 like the enemy is there. So between the  
 21 colonel up there and the local leaders of our  
 22 time and the people agreed, well, we'll change  
 23 that in some way. He said, yeah, we would  
 24 prefer if you don't come as far or maybe go  
 25 further. So naturally some of the older  
 people went as far as -- they moved down to  
 what we called the Smelt Creek area. Kind of  
 what if you said, well, what is King Salmon?  
 Back then they called it the Naknek Air Force  
 Base. It wasn't King Salmon. The colonel  
 said, well, our ammunition storage is right  
 across the bridge at King Salmon and the  
 embankment's there, so if you go south of  
 that, no problem, but we couldn't go north of  
 that.

So we went up and started from the  
 rapids going north up to Naknek Lake. Things  
 were working well. Naturally the aggressive  
 younger people would go further up, you know,  
 they'd go up to the lake and do hunting. The  
 older people would just stay down from Smelt  
 Creek south and basically from there down to  
 Paul's Creek, the lower flats of Paul's Creek,  
 and that was usually where they would  
 congregate before they migrate. So as time  
 went on, even then during -- we were in the  
 rapids area and then one young service person  
 wandered off and they lost a person out there  
 and found them almost a year later. The idea  
 was the enticement of us shooting would create

1 attraction. It was actually off limits for  
2 these military people, but you're a young  
3 service person, you hear people hunting, you  
4 go buy a shotgun and go join them.

5 Anyway, the whole thing was the  
6 community was trying to work out moving and  
7 trying to establish a place to hunt. The  
8 hunting then moved more up to Naknek Lake  
9 area, the upper lagoon, the two or three  
10 lagoons in that area. People kind of then  
11 went up there to -- like as I got older,  
12 that's where I went because I even trapped up  
13 in that area and did the spring hunt there.  
14 We did our spring hunting and took maybe 20 or  
15 30 geese and we salted them down for the  
16 winter. That's basically what the families  
17 did. They just migrated on through and in a  
18 week they're gone. So that's fine.

19 Then, as you recall, along came  
20 the extension of parks, so that's naturally  
21 automatically cut out. Then, the people here  
22 that still do this river type subsistence,  
23 early goose hunt, they start -- being the  
24 military is out of King Salmon area -- some  
25 start moving kind of from the rapids on down  
26 to Paul's Creek.

27 Then we have a lot of new people  
28 moving into King Salmon. We have the FAA  
29 station there, a lot of the various agencies  
30 and everybody is screaming, oh, them local  
31 people, look at that, killing all them poor  
32 birds and that. There was a few people that  
33 were actually new to our area even that went  
34 out hunting there in front of King Salmon. We  
35 tried to tell them, we don't want to do that.  
36 Move off, stay up in the rapids area or stay  
37 down in the swamp creek area. So all of a  
38 sudden the last few years -- the Fish and  
39 Wildlife had taken over since. The Bureau of  
40 Fisheries is long gone.

41 All of a sudden they been doing  
42 these surveys in the last, I think, three  
43 years -- I don't want to get in a discussion  
44 on that. I would just like to make a  
45 statement. That then all of sudden they come  
46 out and they start zoning the Naknek River.

47 They zone it there no there's no spring  
48 hunting basically from Paul's Creek to the  
49 park, all the way to the lake. In essence,  
50 what you did, you told us there is no

1 subsistence -- you're killing us in one way  
 here. Here's a card, tell me how many geese  
 2 you got or whatever. I want to be as honest  
 -- in the last couple of years I didn't get  
 3 any because they had taken my personal hunting  
 ground away which was down by Smelt Creek.

4 The reason I feel -- the only  
 reason they moved it to arbitrary choose  
 5 Paul's Creek, I believe, as the Fish and  
 Wildlife's got two houses they built down in  
 6 that area. If they're living there, naturally  
 it's a good starting point from one agency to  
 7 the other one to the park. Shut it down.  
 There was no public hearing, no concern about  
 8 it other than just telling us, this is a  
 no-hunting zone. We want to try to stay  
 9 legal. In essence, I guess it's illegal to do  
 spring hunt, but they do this survey and they  
 10 tell you what to take and what not to take,  
 whatever. I felt it was wrong to do it  
 11 aggressively without any public input.

What's going to happen now if --  
 12 I'm not sure if it's going to be you folks  
 become the waterfowl -- it'll be added on to  
 13 you as the duty to regulate the waterfowl  
 management as a subsistence, or I'm hearing  
 14 they might establish a new panel or new board  
 to do this. I want to bring to you folks,  
 15 whoever it is, to make awareness. Otherwise,  
 I feel that for this area they have taken our  
 16 waterfowl subsistence right away because this  
 is the area where we hunt from. You maybe  
 17 heard a few people went to old Libbyville up  
 the Kvichak or whatever. To me that's  
 18 erroneous. That's people that just moved in  
 here the last few years just trying to go out  
 19 and find something, because they cannot hunt  
 up in the river.

20 What I would like to do is, where  
 they would justify, reestablish their  
 21 boundaries, and I would agree, because it was  
 traditional that we didn't hunt from King  
 22 Salmon Creek up to King Salmon to what we  
 called Strawberry Point, the end of the  
 23 runway. We had an agreement, an understanding  
 why. I realize King Salmon is now populated  
 24 with various people other than, say, our local  
 Native group that do most of the hunting, so  
 25 we would just -- honestly, we wouldn't want to  
 be hunting in front of them. But we would

1 like to at least maintain that the boundary be  
2 changed from Paul's Creek to Smelt Creek north  
3 to the park. Because right now all the river  
4 frontage on this side of the river is  
5 five-acre lots owned by our local shareholders  
6 of local village corporation who owns that  
7 land.

8 On the other side of the river is  
9 South Naknek Village Corporation, owns all  
10 that land on that side from these particular  
11 boundaries. From Paul's Creek on up, the very  
12 first stretch of it's about 1200 feet of a  
13 Native allotment. We're hunting in front of  
14 somebody's front yard, you know, other than  
15 these two buildings that start at Paul's  
16 Creek. Basically I just wanted to bring it to  
17 you people's attention that somehow I believe  
18 there should be public hearings before just  
19 arbitrary boundaries are established. I'm  
20 thinking if it isn't you folks, they're going  
21 to go before this new panel and say, well,  
22 this is what we kind of have in place now.  
23 Would you adopt or ratify it? And I'm sure  
24 them people would if you don't have a public  
25 hearing.

With that, I thank you.

MR. O'HARA: Are there any  
questions, Council members? Alan, if we  
aren't the ones -- yes, come on up, Tom.

TOM (UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER): I just  
have a comment on this waterfowl issue. Maybe  
it might be a good idea for our next meeting  
to get somebody in from our office to talk  
about this, bring us all up to date. Because  
it sounds like there's some issues there that  
need to be brought out and some questions that  
need to be answered. That's all I have.

MR. O'HARA: I think what Alan  
mentioned here and Pat yesterday, that you  
could probably begin looking at some  
boundaries that would make subsistence a lot  
more comfortable and useful to the local  
people who use it. If we're not the entity  
that's going to do it, we're going to  
definitely influence what they're going to do,  
Alan. Thank you very much for speaking to us  
today.

1

MR. ASPLUNDE: Yeah. Thanks.

2

MR. O'HARA: We would like to have a committee that would consist of Shirley, Robert and myself to deal with the strategic plan meeting a little later on, perhaps here in Naknek or Dillingham, with the management people to work on the plan. Is there anything else we need to cover? Yes?

6

MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, Mr. Chair. Yesterday Ralph Henderson from BBNA faxed me a summary, but the Council needs to take action on one request that he had. There is an executive summary for a Beluga River project on the Kvichak and BBNA would like a representative on this planning committee. And I'll forward that to Ralph and also, if and when they choose to hold a meeting with this planning, I'll see what our office can do in terms of travel to the place.

12

MR. O'HARA: Where is that going to be at?

13

MR. EDENSHAW: That's undetermined yet, but Ralph would like us to forward a name for a representative from the Council to serve on this Kvichak River-Beluga project.

16

MR. O'HARA: Any takers? I'll do it. I'm very interested in this one. We have a lady who used to be the chair of the game board in Anchorage, Laurie Quakenbush, who went to work for Alaska Department of Fish and Game, I believe, who I think would be very interested in helping maybe on proposals or documents that would maybe look at this a little more carefully. BBNA, I'm very interested in seeing them doing a scientific study on this issue.

22

Anything else coming before this Council? Thank you very much for being here. We will be back in February. I would like the Council to think that maybe we need to start thinking about a buffer zone around some of the communities for subsistence on moose. Might be a radical idea. Next meeting will be what, February in Dillingham.

25

1           Motion to adjourn, unless there is  
2 anything else?

3           MR. SAMUELSON: So moved.

4           MS. KELLY: Second.

5           MR. O'HARA: We're out of here.  
6 Thanks.

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1 I, Leslie J. Knisley, Shorthand Reporter, do hereby certify that the above and  
2 foregoing contains a true and correct  
3 transcription of the Bristol Bay Federal  
4 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting  
5 reported by me on the 6th day of November,  
6 2001.

7 Leslie J. Knisley  
8 Shorthand Reporter  
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